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MEMO

To: DDP

Thru: ADSO

From: EE/SO

Subject: OTTO SKORZENY

1. The [] station received reports in September 1951 from Otto Skorzeny with the claim that he had uncovered a widespread RIS espionage net which had agents in the Bonn government and in the Allied High Commission in Germany. It was alleged that all important decisions of the High Commission were reported to Moscow within 48 hours by this net. Although this claim met with much skepticism here, it was thoroughly investigated by our German station because of its importance if true.

2. The investigation revealed a large group of ex-SS officers engaged in intelligence peddling in Western Germany. There was no evidence of RIS connections nor of any penetration of the High Commission. There were indications that some minor officials of the Bonn government had been selling information to this group and to other news services. Seven such officials are under arrest by the German police and action will be taken by the German authorities. The British had investigated this entire complex independently and arrived at the same conclusions as we had.

3. Skorzeny had submitted one detailed report on the 27 August 1951 meeting between U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy and Chancellor Adenauer. Investigation proved that nothing in this report was true except for items taken from the press. The report was false in the following details:

- a. Neither Bittenwieser nor Harris attended the meeting as alleged.
- b. The remarks attributed to McCloy and Adenauer are completely fabricated in substance and in detail.
- c. No "commission to study German foreign relations" has been formed and no members of such a commission were appointed at this meeting as alleged in the report.

4. Our German station will terminate this investigation and turn over pertinent information to the competent German authorities for further action.

BF

C. after SEP. 1951

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☒

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